

From: Walter Steensby
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/25/01 8:09pm
Subject: Reasons not to penalise Microsoft

Greetings,

I am a private citizen. I believe that I have been driven into unemployment by the tactics and behaviour of Microsoft and its acolytes. However, I offer below six reasons why Microsoft should not suffer further disturbance from the courts.

1. Microsoft is a huge company, seemingly as close to a monopoly as is possible without actually having become the sole supplier in the marketplace of personal computer operating systems and enterprise-level IT support software systems. The marketplace has made rational, reasoned, impartial and unbiased assessment of the available options, and accordingly Microsoft is the beneficiary.
2. The installation worldwide of Microsoft operating systems and other of their software is hugely beneficial to various US government agencies, the NSA for example, making it possible for these agencies to conduct remote surveillance operations on government and corporate activities anywhere. (I would refer you to "The Puzzle Palace" by James Bamford.) This capability is very important to the security of the USA, especially after last September's outrage. Indeed, if organisations and other governments can be persuaded to use non-Microsoft operating systems, this situation might contribute to compromising the security of the US.
3. The considerable revenue streams from Microsoft's sales outside the US continue to help the rather desperate balance of payments situation, all the more so as the recession deepens.
4. Microsoft is now at the head of an "empire of technology" enabling and facilitating the operations of, and thereby guiding, the bulk of the world's governmental, commercial and industrial functions. Individuals, organisations and governments which in IT terms are unable to control their own destinies have been and will continue to be well-served by Microsoft.
5. The court's recent decision re Microsoft is simply a reflection of the political realities of the day and of the attitude of Republican administrations to business in general. Why disturb an organisation which clearly is functioning efficiently?
6. The current administration and its advisors are evidently aware of the true nature of the situation and of its ramifications. Their decisions should stand.

Yours sincerely
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